

INDIANA EARLY LEARNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Family Engagement Workgroup

Meeting Minutes Summary

September 18, 2015

MEMBERS

Kevin Bain

Melanie Brizzi

Charlie Geier

Tammy Veselsky

Alonzo Weems

ADVISORY MEMBERS

John Burnett

Connie Sherman

Attendees: Chris Whitmire, John Peirce, Mindy Bennett, Anita Allison, Kyle Wehmann; *On phone:* Meghan Smith, Jenni Mohr, Jennifer Cioni, Jen Drake, Jackie Garvey

Key Topics Discussed:

- ELAC Updates:
 - Currently working with the Office (OECOSL) to brand ELAC and create a website: www.ELACIndiana.org.
 - Newly created resources and tools: A white paper explaining definitions of Kindergarten Readiness Assessments, as Security Data Sharing Policy, and an Analysis of Funding that Supports Early Childhood Programs and Services in Indiana
 - Brief update on ELAC Strategic Planning Session
- FE Toolkit Updates, Meghan Smith
 - FE Toolkit will go on ELAC website when finalized; Also, it was recommended to be moved to the top of current ELAC page (along with other important documents created by ELAC), and put on the provider resources page.
 - Discussed removing the Family Engagement Framework document from the current ELAC webpage because it will now be featured in the toolkit with more context provided.
 - Toolkit Feedback: There were 65-80 toolkit orientation webinar participants and webinar recordings have already been requested! Feedback is positive so far. Providers have been impressed by the look and feel of the toolkit. OECOSL is printing 1,000 copies for distribution.
- Toolkit Feedback Survey Process Update: Goal is to get quantitative feedback from OMY and EEMG providers on toolkit. The Office or IU will disseminate survey. Katie Herron's survey questions draft will be sent to Melanie for review. Katie may enter survey into Qualtrix interface for users.
- Workgroup discussed the Coalition Building Process Wheel and how it is used to frame new workgroup deliverables and get the right expertise around the table to move the work forward.
- New Workgroup Focus: Create a Family Friendly Version of the Indiana Foundations



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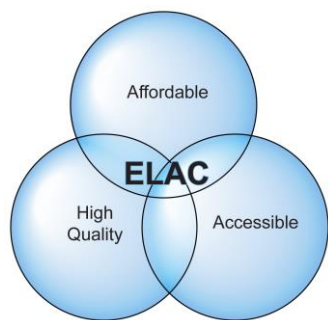
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- High-Level list of potential steps: Develop a Family Friendly Foundations prototype, present it to families, get feedback from families, edit, revise, and publish. John and Chris will present a “skeleton” scope of work draft at October meeting.
- Jenni Mohr is working with her undergrad students on breaking down the Foundations content to be more digestible for families. Then, the workgroup could develop family friendly language to describe key points.
- Discussed partnering with DOE or IYI on this work and framing the “ask” *after* a scope of work is developed.
- Discussed sharing the Family Friendly Foundations prototype with families across the state to understand their perspective by conducting focus groups for feedback. How many families would provide a sufficient sample, and from which geographical areas (i.e. CCR&R or IACCRR service delivery areas)?
- It was suggested to enlist the support of the ELI Family Engagement AmeriCorps members in this work. Also, Social Work degree-seeking students could help facilitate the focus groups around the State.
- Discussed adding workgroup members (or special guests) with established relationships with families, and/or involved in targeted relationships with different cultural groups for this work.

Other Potential Workgroup Priorities

- Home Visiting:
 - In the June 2015 ELAC Report to the Governor, recommendation #9 refers to the transition of families and their young children in home visiting programs to high-quality early childhood education programs. The workgroup is deciding whether to take on this work.
 - Cassondra Kinderman at Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) will join the workgroup in November to present on their work in this area. Then the workgroup can determine its role, if any.
 - The workgroup decided to table this focus for processing after the November meeting. In the meantime, the workgroup is asked to review Indiana’s Needs Assessment for MIECHV Program for familiarity and to formulate questions for Cassondra.
- Workgroup reviewed handout shared by IAEYC, “State and National Family Engagement Standards Incorporated into Family Engagement Content of Indiana Early Childhood Education Degree Programs, by Program”. Co-chairs will ask ELAC if and how to address the issue of



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implementing early childhood standards for FE for the State of Indiana in Higher Ed coursework.

- Anita suggested having an informed discussion about family engagement outcomes as another potential deliverable, and highlighted the following research: Measuring What Matters, Using Data to Support Family Progress, <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/family/docs/measuring-what-matters.pdf>.

Key Questions Raised:

1. Who needs to be at the table to develop a prototype for a family friendly version of the Foundations? What is the timeline for this work?
2. If there are no FE standards in place, how does it get embedded into Early Childhood Higher Education Degree programs and/or practices and training for teachers?

Action Steps:

1. Kyle will update the FE Toolkit final version in Wiggio.
2. Family Friendly Foundations: Mindy offered to follow up on the suggestion to involve the ELI Family Engagement AmeriCorps members in the Family Friendly Foundations work; John and Chris agreed to draft a scope of work and present at October meeting; and Jon offered to update the workgroup on any clarification from IDOE about developing a Family Friendly Foundations at next meeting.
3. Other potential workgroup priorities:
 - Workgroup members are requested to read the following: *Measuring What Matters, Using Data to Support Family Progress*, <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/family/docs/measuring-what-matters.pdf>, and come prepared to discuss potential workgroup role at **October** meeting. Kyle will upload this document to Wiggio.
 - Workgroup members are asked to review Indiana's Needs Assessment for MIECHV Program for familiarity and to formulate questions for **November** guest presentation on Home Visiting.
 - Co-chairs will ask ELAC if and how to address the issue of implementing early childhood standards for FE for the State of Indiana in Higher Ed coursework.
4. Anita agreed to look through her contacts and recommend a local HS representative to serve on this workgroup.

Next Meeting: Friday, October 16th, 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Location: Early Learning Indiana Offices at 615 N. Alabama Street, Suite 300 Indianapolis, IN 46204.